

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP HK

SUBJECT: LANGUAGE LABORATORIES

REF: HONG KONG 10761

1. FSI LANGUAGE LAB COMPONENTS PURCHASED FROM AT LEAST FIVE DIFFERENT COMPANIES OVER CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME. MAIN SUPPLIERS ARE WOLLENSAK AND SONY. BECAUSE OF MANNER IN WHICH COMPONENTS HAVE BEEN ACQUIRED, IT WOULD BE TIME CONSUMING IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO COME UP WITH REASONABLE TOTAL OR PER POSITION COST ESTIMATES.

2. FSI LAB FEATURES PRODUCTION, REPRODUCTION, AND PLAYBACK CAPABILITIES. VOICE ACTIVATED MICROPHONES PERMIT STUDENTS TO HEAR THEIR OWN VOICES AND TAPES AT SAME TIME, WITHOUT OVERDUBBING OF TAPE. FSI RECOMMENDS CASSETTE RATHER THAN REEL-TO-REEL SYSTEMS.

3. DEPT INQUIRY TO COMMERCE PRODUCED FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

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-- LANGUAGE LABS CAN BE PURCHASED AS COMPLETE PACKAGES, OR ASSEMBLED OUT OF COMPONENTS FROM MULTIPLE SOURCES. BOTH FIXED AND PORTABLE LANGUAGE LABS ARE AVAILABLE.

-- PRICE SPREAD ON PORTABLE SYSTEMS IS TOO GREAT TO GIVE A SINGLE USEFUL ESTIMATE WITHOUT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

-- A SAMPLE FIXED SYSTEM--INCLUDING BOOTH, CABLES, CASSETTE RECORDER, AND HEADSET WOULD COST ROUGHLY DOLS. 750 PER POSITION. IN ADDITION, CONTROL CONSOLE (FOR THIRTY POSITION LAB) WOULD COST BETWEEN DOLS. 4,000- DOLS. 7,000. OTHER EXPENSES FOR SUCH A SYSTEM WOULD INCLUDE MAINTENANCE (DOLS. 1,500 PER YEAR) AND REPAIRS (DOLS. 500 - DOLS. 1,000 PER YEAR).

4. DEPT OF COMMERCE WILL BE HAPPY TO SEND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, INCLUDING DIRECTORY OF AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS, BUT REQUESTS THAT POST PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING TYPE AND SIZE OF LAB CONTEMPLATED.
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